

MAIL FROM ALONG THE ERIE CANAL: 1825-1862

SYNOPSIS APRIL 2017

Purpose:

The display exhibit uses mail emanating from places along the Canal and related non-philatelic items from the period (initial completion in 1825 to enlargement completion in 1862) to tell the story of its impact: creating new towns, enabling people to move west, enabling access for goods to the country beyond the Appalachians, lowering transportation costs, and giving people in the west access to markets. Emphasis is also placed on mail relating to the Canal or personages involved with it.

Presentation:

I included the types of items listed on the Title Page. It is not possible to show all postmarks, rates, etc. for each place, so representative examples are shown.

Plan and Treatment:

The material is presented in four sections. It is arranged by place name and mile marker starting from the eastern end (Albany) and finishing on the western end (Buffalo). Emphasis has been placed on including a wide variety of usages and material. Succinct descriptions of items are used and important philatelic text is in bold. Non-philatelic text is in italics if in conjunction with philatelic text.

Research and Knowledge:

I have drawn upon over three dozen excellent books on the Canal and numerous additional works on aspects of the subject. Over the years I have collected over 700 Canal-related covers/letters and over 200 historical documents and deltiological items.

References to "listings" and my terminology and methodology used to describe manuscript and stampless items, postmarks, and auxiliary markings are based upon the publications listed below. Information on postmarks, periods of use, colors, etc., is less available for the early stamp period, and I have had to rely upon my collection and experience.

Datelines in letters are often used for dating items. In some instances my choice of the year or range of possible years, was based upon a combination of (a) the period of use of the postmark, (b) the date of issue of the stamp or postal stationery, and/or (c) the period the rate was in effect.

I only describe senders, recipients, and letter contents if they relate to the story of the Canal. Rate information is provided, however I have not repeated it for the 3¢ rate effective July 1, 1851. This is not an exhibit of canal-boat mail. The canal was only used for mail in exigent circumstances, such as a road being washed out.

Material Highlights:

Previously unrecorded items are included. Philatelically or historically important items are highlighted and described as such.

Condition:

Condition of items in this exhibit is as good as can be obtained.

Selected Bibliography

The New York State section of the American Stampless Cover Catalog, 5th Edition, 1997, as updated online on the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society web site.

Postal Markings of New York State 1792-1856, George J. Bernadt, Editor, 1993 by the Empire States Postal History Society.

Numerous resources on the Empire States Postal History Society web site; **www.esphs.us**, and the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society web site; **www.uspcs.org**